

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 L-03 ORM-02 PRS-01 SCA-01

VO-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-07 INRE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00

DODE-00 SP-02 DHA-02 FBIE-00 SY-05 INSE-00 /059 W

----- 100960

R 111617Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4938

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 6699

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF PO (CRUZ, JOAO DA)

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE: JOAO DA CRUZ

1. JOAO DA CRUZ, PORTUGUESE CITIZEN, BORN ON AUGUST 1, 1946, AT VALPACOS, PORTUGAL, HAS COME TO THIS EMBASSY ASKING FOR ASSISTANCE IN GETTING OUT OF PORTUGAL. HE CLAIMS TO HAVE FORMERLY BEEN A NURSE IN THE PORTUGUESE PRISON SYSTEM, CHARGED WITH SUPERVISING THE WORK OF PRISONERS WHO HAD BEEN MEMBERS OF THE SECRET POLICE IN SALAZAR/CAETANO DAYS, PIDE/DGS. WHILE WORKING AT THE PRISON AT CAXIAS IN THE SPRING OF THIS YEAR, HE BECAME CONVINCED OF THE INJUSTICE OF THEIR IMPRISONMENT, SO HE SET THE PRISONERS UP WITH SITUATIONS WHERE LARGE NUMBERS COULD ESCAPE TO SPAIN. IN JUNE, 1975, HE TOO FLED TO SPAIN.

2. CRUZ RETURNED TO PORTUGAL ABOUT FOUR MONTHS LATER ON ACCOUNT OF THE PENDING DEATH OF A GRANDMOTHER. WITHIN TWO DAYS HE WAS SPOTTED IN A RESTAURANT AND ARRESTED BY THE MILITARY POLICE. HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY TRIED AND CONVICTED, BUT SENTENCED TO ONLY A FEW DAYS IN JAIL. HE CLAIMS THAT HE WAS RELEASED FROM PRISON SO QUICKLY IN HOPE THAT HE WOULD LEAD THE PORTUGUESE INTELLIGENCE (SDCI), TO HIS ACCOMPLICES AND CONTACTS. HE FURTHER CLAIMS THAT HE IS ALSO BEING HARASSED BY PERSONS FROM THE EXTRA-GOVERNMENTAL LEFT.

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3. THIS, HE CLAIMS, HAS CREATED AN INTOLERABLE SITUATION FOR HIM

IN PORTUGAL, SO HE WANTS THE EMBASSY TO ASSIST HIM TO GET BACK ACROSS THE BORDER TO SPAIN. HE IS NOT SPECIFIC AS TO WHAT KIND OF HELP HE WANTS. HIS FRIENDS ARE NO HELP SINCE CONTACT WOULD COMPROMISE THEM. HE CLAIMS, MOREOVER, THAT HE HAS NO POLITICAL CONNECTIONS SINCE HE IS TOTALLY APOLITICAL. HE HAS NO TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AND CLAIMS THAT HE CANNOT GET ANY; ALTHOUGH HE ADMITS THAT HE HAS NOT TRIED.

4. EMBASSY OFFICERS EXPLAINED TO HIM THAT HE WAS ASKING THE EMBASSY TO INTERVENE IN A PURELY PORTUGUESE MANNER. TO DO SO WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE INTERESTS AND SOVEREIGNTY OF THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT; CONSEQUENTLY WE CAN BE OF NO HELP.

5. IF THE DEPARTMENT HAS FURTHER COMMENTS OR INSTRUCTIONS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING THEM; OTHERWISE, WE INTEND TO HAVE NO FURTHER CONTACT WITH CRUZ.
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